

## Stalin's conquest plan "Groza"

"Groza" started with an idea. Its first stage was the conquest of Ukraine, Belarus, Transcaucasia and Central Asia. They were to be followed by the conquest of the whole of Europe. When continental Europe was Bolshevized, it was to be the turn of the British Empire. To do this, it was first necessary to make a military campaign to Iran and Iraq and seize the British oil sources that were there. After the destruction of the continental countries of Europe and the British Empire, the entire Old World would have been under communist Soviet rule.

For many years, the Soviet Union had been gathering strength for a decisive large-scale attack on Europe. Since the unification of Austria with Germany in 1938, Stalin had followed with great interest the activities of National Socialist Germany in Europe. He was especially pleased with the hostile attitude of the peoples of Europe towards Hitler's actions. This made it possible to serve up the future military campaign of the Soviet Union in Europe as the "liberation" of the peoples of Europe.

In 1939, Stalin was faced with three issues to be resolved, all of which were related to his main goal - the conquest of Europe.

First of all, everything had to be done to ensure that Hitler continued the war against France and England;

T e i s e k s - one had to arm oneself in order to conquer the shattered Europe after Hitler;

K o l m a n d a k s - to realize the opportunities that the MRP gave him.

On September 1, 1939, when Germany began its campaign against Poland, Stalin had announced that World War II had begun. Hitler did not know this at the time. For him, it was a local war that could have ended there. The injustice for Versailles had been paid.

On 3 September 1939, England and France declared war on Germany, but did not start it. Three weeks later, on 17 September, Stalin began a campaign against Poland, but he saw it quite differently: for him, Hitler was the prey animal, with whose help it was possible to realise the idea of the immortal Lenin - to carry out a world revolution. At this point, we may ask why England and France did not declare war on the Soviet Union, which attacked Poland on an equal footing with Germany? The objections that the Poles did not fight with the Soviet Union belong to the classics of demagoguery. But who was to blame for starting the war? Is it the one who attacked first, or the one who incited and created all the conditions for it? Is the water to blame for the boiling of the water, or is it the one who made the fire under the cauldron?

In the autumn of 1939, Hitler wanted to achieve a quick solution on the Western Front and hoped to end the campaign in the West by Christmas. At the same time, hope was cherished in Berlin to reach an agreement with England, and therefore the Western offensive planned by Hitler was postponed more and more. Hitler realized that attacking France in violation of the neutrality of Belgium and the Netherlands would be the final blow to the chances of reconciliation with the West.

For Stalin, the conquest of Poland was only a fraction of his main goal. In order to conquer the rest of Europe, Germany had to be taken to that point. But Hitler hesitated. He was not prepared for a longer war. For this, Germany's raw material resources were very miserable. Oil - the main raw material of the war - only lasted for a few months.

This is where Stalin came to the rescue. Train after train began to roll towards Germany, where everything needed for the war was found. Stalin was correct in this respect. Everything that was demanded was sent. So, the German military attaché in Moscow complained that they had difficulties in producing 9 mm cartridges because there was no necessary line. Pretty soon the answer came: Russia would supply the missing line and also another 2000 half-ton aircraft bombs to bomb English cities with them.

Between 1 January 1940 and 22 June 1941, the Soviet Union sent to Germany:

- 1 500 000 tonnes of cereals;
- 100,000 tonnes of cotton for the manufacture of explosives;
- 2 000 000 tonnes of oil;
- 1,500,000 cubic metres of timber;
- 280,000 tonnes of margarine;
- 420,000 tonnes of chromium;
- 1,200,000 tonnes of rolled metal
- 2,700,000 tonnes of non-ferrous metal;
- 30 000 tonnes of raw rubber;

The Soviet Union had sent a lot of what was necessary for the war to Germany already before 1 January 1940. As a result of this friendly cooperation, Hitler was ready for a campaign to the West by 9 May 1940. He conquered Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway one after the other. France asked for an armistice. Stalin rejoiced. Molotov said bluntly: "*We wish Germany complete success in its defensive effort.*"

On 17 June 1940, the German ambassador Schulenburg sent a telegram from Moscow to the German Foreign Ministry, in which he announced (USSR – Germany 1939 – 1940, p. 55.):

"Molotov invited me to his office tonight and handed over to me the warmest congratulations of the Soviet Government on the outstanding success of the German armed forces. ). Molotov went on to inform me about the Soviet activities in relation to the Baltic states, referring to the reasons published in the newspapers, and added that it was necessary to put an end to all the intrigues of the British and French that were trying to sow mistrust and discord in the Baltic States between the USSR and Germany." (On May 28, 1940, the newspaper Pravda accused Estonia of hostility to Germany. See the chapter "Occupation of Estonia.")

The German historian Herbert Michael and the general-historians Walter Bogath and Walter Warlimont have expressed the opinion that the conquest of these lands was an action under the influence of Hitler's instantaneous instant, and that events unfolded randomly and without consideration. However, they fail to note that Joseph Stalin was invisible in the role of the orchestrator of the military operations started by Hitler and also in the future. However, one of the reasons for the occupation of these countries was also the plan to attack Germany planned by the Western Allies.

The fact that the Western Allies and the Soviet Union had such a plan is indicated by several sources.

Based on the intelligence collected by Marshal Mannerheim of Finland, the Soviet Union had the following plan of action in 1940:

- With the tacit consent of the Western countries, the Red Army had to occupy and annex Finland in March 1940. The Baltic states were to be occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union by the end of May 1940 at the latest.
- In the spring of 1940, France, together with Dutch and Belgian troops, had to start military operations against Germany. At the same time, there was to be an Anglo-French invasion of Norway and from there to Denmark and southern Sweden, where it was planned to create the southern front of the war against Germany.
- Yugoslavia was to attack Germany through the "Bohemian horseshoe", as evidenced by the document files that fell prey to the Germans at La Charité in 1940.

On 9 March 1940, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, von Ribbentrop, sent an official letter to Marshal Mannerheim bearing the signatures of Reich Marshal H. Göring and von Ribbentrop. The content of this document, signed as a record of the Mannerheim Archives K/8/24, was as follows:

#### **To Marshal C. G. E. Mannerheim of Finland**

*On 07.03.40 the government of the German Reich gave information about the existence of a Anglo-Russian attack plan against Germany, which foresees an invasion of the Baltic States and Scandinavia. The German government does not want to wait for this plan to be realized. He does not agree under any circumstances that military operations should be transferred to the territory of the German Reich.*

*In order to prevent the Anglo-French invasion and to prevent the occupation of Norway and Denmark, Germany is taking preventive measures. If the Russian armies were to launch an attack on Finland and the Swedish coast from the Gulf of Bothnia (the Gulf of Bothnia), German military forces would occupy Norway and Denmark. In such a case, the German Air Force will also immediately launch air strikes on the parts of Finnish territory from which the Russian troops are attacking.*

*If Finland wants help from German troops in resisting Russian forces, it must submit an inquiry to the German government to see if it agrees to support the air force. The German government asks that the Air Force's request for support be notified directly to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

*Berlin, 02.04.1940 Hermann Göring J. von Ribbentrop*

*Reichmarshal Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany*

#### **The following materials were attached to the document:**

- Photocopy of a secret military agreement signed by Stalin and Churchill on 15 October 1939. This includes plans for the realisation of the document;
- Scandinavian aerial photographs with notes of a strategic and tactical nature on the planned military-operational movements of British and French troops from the north towards the borders of the German Reich;
- Explanation of the organization and execution of a joint war between the West and the East against the German Reich. The following diagrams are attached to the document:
  - Aerial photo copy of Allied operational plans in Norway;
  - Diagram on the map of the plan for the German Reich to take military hold on four fronts. (*On the Northern Front, on the West French and Belgian-Dutch fronts, on the Yugoslav front in the Balkan Peninsula, and on the main Soviet Russian front.*)

- After the Soviet Union has occupied Finland and the British-French expeditionary forces have occupied Norway, Denmark and southern Sweden, the Joint General Staff draws up a timetable for joint offensive offensives in the following sequence:
- British Expeditionary Army units in northern France march through Belgium with the French Army and then go on the offensive on the Rhine front. At the same time, Russian troops begin an offensive from Czechoslovakia and Poland. The Netherlands and Belgium have promised to take part in this joint offensive against the German Reich.
- The naval forces of England and France isolate the German navy, blocking the northern North Sea and the branch canal of Dover and Calais until the German army is neutralized.
- According to the plan, the main attack on Germany will come from Scandinavia via Denmark and the Baltics. The General Staff of Operations will remain in Paris, where it will immediately begin operations.
- The joint General Staff of the French and British Air Forces, together with the General Staff of the Soviet Russian Air Force, immediately forms a working group with the operational objective of inflicting a devastating blow on the German Air Force, in order to then jointly launch land operations.
- The clause written in the agreement about possible assistance to Finland is based on the agreement reached between Churchill and Stalin at the secret meeting in the Crimea in the summer of 1939 (the invasion of British Norway).
- At the request of the Soviet Russian General Staff, nautical charts indicating the minefields in Norwegian waters have been attached to the military secret agreement. *Royal Navy* begins minelaying Norwegian waters on 5-6 April 1940. The attached map marks the waterways left free of mines for its naval forces.

According to Mannerheim's secret service, the British Admiralty had confirmed its readiness to deal with the Soviet Union on 15 October. 1939 and gave its consent to the annexation of Finland by the Soviet Union, which was to begin on 15 May 1940.

The British Admiralty and the British government had set 14-15 May 1940 as the deadline for the occupation of Norway and Denmark. In the course of further development of events, it was decided to bring this deadline to mid-March 1940. In reality, however, the operation was supposed to begin on April 8-10, 1940. The British-French invasion plans also envisaged the occupation of southern Sweden along with the city of Gothenburg. At sea, the British Admiralty planned to close the North Sea, the Skagerrak and the Kattegat to German warships with the help of the Royal Navy.

But Hitler thwarted these Western and Soviet attack plans by ordering blitzkriegs to save Germany and Europe from being crushed by a red roller. On 9 April, Hitler gave the order for Operation *Weserübung* (Danish and Norwegian campaign) and on 8 May 1940 launched a dangerous war on two fronts in the West. While the Wehrmacht was fighting in Norway, Hitler started a war against France on May 10, 1940.

Both blitzkriegs started by Germany thwarted the Soviet Union's and the Western Allies' plans to attack Germany, and the Soviet and Allied military alliance was forced to change its strategic plan to defeat Germany.

After the surrender of France and the repulsion of the British-French Expeditionary Corps that had landed in Norway and Denmark and the seizure of these lands by the Germans, the Red Army, which had in the meantime significantly increased its armed forces, had to deal a major blow to the German military forces during the first decade of July 1941.

Stalin planned to use the Yugoslav army as a warm-up to further fragment German forces during the Yugoslav revolt against the Germans. This forced the German leadership to launch a campaign against Yugoslavia in the Balkans and to counter the British troops allied with the Soviet Union that had invaded Greece. Stalin had taken into account the long-lasting military resistance of the Serbs, but he was wrong about it.

It is known that England made public the agreements and treaties signed with the Soviet Union on 12 July 1941 and 26 May 1942, announcing that British political and military cooperation with the Soviet Union already existed at the time of the signing of the German-Soviet Treaties (MRP), although the texts of the treaties expressly forbade it - *expressis verbis*.

At the same time, however, the Soviet Union tried in every way to justify its alliance with Hitler's Germany, praised Germany's conquests in Europe and conjured up the Western Allies for their intentions to attack Germany. In his report at the session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on March 29, 1940, V. Molotov said:

*"The latest events in international life need to be viewed primarily from the perspective of the war that began in Central Europe last autumn. It is known that Germany's desire for peace, expressed at the end of last year, was rejected by the governments of England and France. On the pretext of fulfilling their duty to Poland, they declared war on Germany. It is now particularly clear how far the real goals of the governments of these great powers are from the interests of a disintegrated Poland or Czechoslovakia. This can be seen from the fact that the governments of England and France have declared the*

*destruction and fragmentation of Germany as their aims, although these aims are still concealed from the masses of the people by the slogans of defending the "rights" of "democratic" countries and peoples. Since the Soviet Union did not want to become an accomplice of England and France in the implementation of its imperialist policy against Germany, their positions against the Soviet Union have become even more hostile, vividly demonstrating the deep class roots of the hostile policy of the imperialists against the socialist state."*

Why did the Soviet Union hide cooperation with the Western Allies? Was the motive behind this duplicitous behavior Stalin's desire for Hitler to launch military action against the Western Allies, which would allow him to launch an attack plan "Groza"?

When Germany began to conquer Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway, the then British Prime Minister Churchill was amazed - intelligence and common sense say: Stalin is not an idiot for not taking the opportunity to strike Hitler from behind. But Stalin remained silent. The order to attack was cancelled. Why?